

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 42, 44, 45 and 47 are now presented for examination. 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42-47 has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42 and 45 are the only independent claims.

Claims 1-11, 18, 19, 21-22, 42, 44, 45, and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent 9-282263 (Iijima et al. '263). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 as currently amended is directed to a processing device for a network in which a communication controller is configured to receive a read command from network devices where data to be read out is stored. A memory has a memory area that stores optional device information listing optional devices mountable on the processing device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the processing device. The optional device information includes information about an optional device mountable but not mounted on the processing device from which the information about the optional device can be read out by a network device using the read command. The optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the processing device has an attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the processing device and a function assist part that assists a function of the processing device.

Independent Claims 18 and 21 as currently amended are directed to a an arrangement for controlling a processing device for a network in which optional device information listing

optional devices mountable on the processing device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the processing device including information about an optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the processing device in a memory area that is accessible by a network device using a read command that specifies the memory address where the information about an optional device to be read out is stored. A read command is received from a network device. The information about the optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the processing device held in the memory area is transmitted in accordance with the read command from the network device. The optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the processing device has an attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the processing device and a function assist part that assists a function of the processing device.

Independent Claim 42 as currently amended is directed to a processing device for a network in which a memory is configured to store optional device information listing optional devices mountable on the processing device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the processing device. The optional device information includes information about an optional device that is mountable on but not mounted on the processing device. A communication unit is configured to send the stored information to a network device. The optional device that is mountable on but not mounted on the processing device has an attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the processing device and a function assist part that assists the function of the processing device.

Independent Claim 22 as currently amended is directed to a processing device for a network in which a memory is configured to store optional device information listing optional

devices mountable on the processing device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the processing device. The optional device information includes information about an optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the processing device. A communication unit is configured to send the stored information to a network device. The optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the processing device has an attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the processing device and a function assist part that assists a function of the processing device.

Independent Claims 8 and 19 as currently amended are directed to an arrangement for controlling a processing device for a network. In the arrangement, a read command is sent to a network device specifying a memory area of a memory in the network device where optional device information lists optional devices mountable on the processing device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the network device is stored. The optional device information has information about an optional device mountable on but not mounted on the network device. Information is acquired about an optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the network device from the memory area by using a read command. A display is controlled based on the acquired information. The optional device that is mountable on but not mounted on the network device has as attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the network device and a function assist part that assists the function of the network device.

Independent Claim 22 as currently amended is directed to a storage medium that stores a program which implements a method of controlling a processing device. According to the

program, a read command is sent to an external device specifying a memory address where data to be read are stored. Information about an optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the external device is acquired from a memory area of the external device listing optional devices mountable on the external device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the external device by using the read command. A display is controlled based on the acquired information. The optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the external device includes an attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the external device and a function assist part that assists the function of the external device.

Independent Claim 45 as currently amended is directed to a method of controlling processing apparatus to communicate with a network device. According to the method, a network device having a memory which stores optional device information listing optional devices mountable on the processing device irrespective of whether the optional device have ever been mounted on the network device is accessed. The optional device information includes information about an optional device mountable on but not mounted on the network device. Information about an optional device that is mountable on but not mounted on the network device is acquired by the accessing. A display is controlled based on the acquired information. The optional device that is mountable but not mounted on the network device has an attachable part through which the optional device is attached to the network device and a function assist part to assist the function of the network device.

In Applicants' view, Iijima et al. '263 discloses a system in which plural electronic devices are connected to a communication control bus and communicate control and information

signals with each other. A PC inquires of the other devices of the system about device information (i.e., device type, device number, etc.) from the devices which are directly or indirectly connected to the PC via the communication control bus. The devices automatically give IDs in accordance with the connection mode of the devices. Correspondence tables are created and stored in the PC which displays the system configuration. When a new device is added to the system or one of the devices is removed, the bus is reset and only device IDs and information for the new connection is stored.

According to the invention of Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42 and 45, a processing device or a network device has a memory that stores optional device information listing optional devices that are mountable on the processing device or network device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the processing device or the network device. The optional device information includes information about an optional device mountable on the network device but not mounted on the network device. Advantageously, the user can be informed of all the optional devices that are mountable on the processing or the network device so that the user can purchase and/or mount one or more of the optional devices on the processing or network device.

Iijima et al. '263 discloses a system in which communication is performed among plural devices connected to a communication control bus (e.g., a serial bus complying with IEEE1394). A PC reads device information from devices directly or indirectly connected to the PC via the communication control bus and stores the device information in a table. The device information held by the PC is information acquired from the device that has already been

connected to the PC via the communication control bus. The device information held by the PC in Iijima et al. '263, however, does not concern any optional device that is not connected to the PC. As a result, the device information held by the PC does not list optional devices connectable to the PC irrespective of whether or not the optional devices have ever been connected to the PC.

Since only devices already connected to the PC are displayed in Iijima et al. '263, a list of optional devices that are not or have never been connected to the PC but are useful is not available to the user. Accordingly, it is not seen that Iijima et al. '263 in any manner teaches or suggests storing optional device information listing optional devices mountable on a processing or network device irrespective of whether the optional devices have ever been mounted on the processing device which includes information about an optional device mountable but not mounted on the processing or network device. It is therefore believed that Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42 and 45 as currently amended are completely distinguished from Iijima et al. '263 and are allowable.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit that the amendments to independent Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42 and 45 clarify Applicants' invention and serve to reduce any issues for appeal.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention,

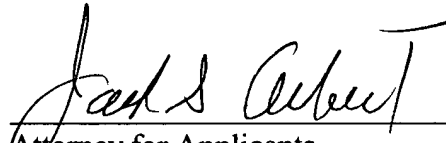
however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants' attorney, Daniel S. Glueck, may be reached in our Washington, D.C.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jack S. Cubert", written over a horizontal line.

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